

became, in middle life, an Anglican, as -well as
 a Conservative Women he genuinely believed to
 be superior to men—a view his wife—and daughter—was
 far from sharing, but, while he would have
 enfranchised them, he was no democrat He enjoyed intellectual
 society, and Huxley, Tyndall, James Martineau, Cardinal
 Manning and Bishop Elmhurst were all friends, but for
 philosophy and philosophising he had a large measure of
 the Englishman's native contempt Herbert Spencer
 was for years an intimate of the household and the first
 person who definitely stimulated and took a real interest in
 Beatrice's intellectual struggles but for her father, "he
 lacked instinct," and the Synthetic philosophy " bored him past
 endurance " If she inherits from the father she adored, the
 forceful drive of personality, the habit of command,
 the "genius for planning rather than executing," from
 her mother comes that self-centred, at times mystical, sense
 of spiritual conflict and spiritual need that was revealed, in
 a manner surprising enough to many at the time, when
 she lectured under the Fabian auspices in the Essex Hall in
 1907, on "The Faith I Hold " How deep in its roots,
 and how early in its manifestations, was this religious
 aspiration, the extracts from her girlish diary printed in *My
 Apprenticeship* fully reveal To her mother the problem—
 the unsolved problem—of faith was central In many ways,
 she must have been a far from happy woman
 unhappy above all in her sense of thwarted purpose a tragedy

far com-
moner with women in those days than was
understood,
or even guessed at, at the time Reared by
and with
men, moreover, Mrs Potter disliked women
Her only
son died in infancy she was surrounded by nine
daughters—
"not the sort of women she liked or approved
"
Their
father laughed at and enjoyed their
unconventionally,
not so their mother She died in 1882 it was
only very
near the end of her life that there sprang
up between